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Formal teaching is given from a manual of ethics, and rewards and prizes furnish a stimulus to good action.

The élite girls in secondary schools may possibly in time, thanks to the recent reforms in education, be intellectually emancipated and freed from tutelage, but now they are in much danger of yielding to luxury, idleness, and excessive sensibility. Since celibacy is an exceptional condition, education can ignore it and fit the girl for the normal marriage, "to be a companion of the cultivated, honorable man." The study of hygiene, sewing, and domestic science, with attention to clothes and manners, is valuable in moral training, but the author deprecates "tearing away the veil of Isis" by teaching sex hygiene. The suggestions and examples of teachers, lessons from a textbook of ethics, and the discipline of school work are the other methods employed.

The colleges and universities offer numerous courses on various ethical subjects, but M. Bauer criticizes them for leaving the professors entirely free to choose their own subjects and for the too frequent use of the historical method of presentation which gives an idea of the flux of things and often dwells too much in the past. What the students need is a dogmatic presentation of truths approved by the social conscience, not doubts and questions. The author proposes a course in social ethics, the social good and social duties, for all, with special courses for the students in law, medicine, art, pedagogy, etc.

Undoubtedly the book will be a stimulating one to French educators and provocative of thought.

HANNAH B. CLARK POWELL

The Hill Folk: Report on a Rural Community of Hereditary Defectives. By FLORENCE H. DANIELSON and CHARLES B. DAVENPORT. Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island: Eugenics Record Office, Memoir No. 1, August, 1912. 4to, pp. v+56, with three folded charts and four text figures.

This memoir is the first in a series to be published by the Eugenics Record Office. The form of the series is quarto in order that ample space may be available for charts. As has been indicated by Doctor Davenport in the preface to the memoir, the study reported is of interest primarily to sociologists, since it deals in a general way with the inheritance of human traits and with certain of the conditions under which undesirable social groups may develop and persist.

The observational work reported in the memoir was done by Miss Danielson who, in 1910, became field-worker for the Monson State Hospital, Palmer, Mass. One of the hospital cases investigated led the worker to a community characterized by the high frequency of feeble-mindedness, alcoholism, and immorality. A study of this community yielded an abundance of interesting facts concerning two families, the history of which "shows how much crime, misery, and expense may result from the union of two defective individuals—how a large number of the present court frequenters, paupers, and town nuisances are connected by a significant network of relationship."

The report "includes a discussion of the undesirable traits in the light of the Mendelian analysis. It presents some observations concerning the relation of heredity and environment, based on their effects upon the children. While it is not an exhaustive study of all the ramifications of even these two families and their consorts, it may be sufficient to throw some light on the vexed question of the prevention of feeble-minded, degenerate individuals, as a humane and economical state policy" (p. 1).

The method of the investigation was not such as to furnish highly accurate as well as extensive information concerning the individuals in the pedigree. Consequently, the analysis of the results for the purpose of solving problems of human heredity is not highly profitable. Miss Danielson gathered this information by personal visits, interviews with the individuals, their relatives, physicians, town officials, neighbors, and from court and town records. She undoubtedly made excellent use of these various sources of information, but it is, of course, to be recognized that the direct measurement by reliable methods of the physical and mental traits of the persons described is much to be desired.

The memoir presents, in the form of charts, the histories for five generations of two families which originated from Neil Rasp, a shiftless basket-maker, and an Englishman known in the memoir as Nuke.

The results of the analysis of the data concerning these two families are admirably summarized in the following paragraph:

The analysis of the data, then, gives statistical support to the conclusion abundantly justified from numerous other considerations, that feeble-mindedness is no elementary trait, but is a legal or sociological, rather than a biological term. Feeble-mindedness is due to the absence, now of one set of traits, now of quite a different set. Only when both parents lack one or more of the same traits do the children all lack the traits. So, if the traits lacking in both parents are socially important the children all lack socially important traits,

i.e., are feeble-minded. If, on the other hand, the two parents lack different socially significant traits, so that each parent brings into the combination the traits that the other lacks, all of the children may be without serious lack and all pass for "normal" [p. 11].

It is evident from the investigation that the unfavorable condition of the community is due largely to the matings of defectives with defectives, for it is perfectly clear from this study of 737 individuals that even when a mentally defective person migrates he is likely to marry in another community a person of similar mental grade.

Of obvious importance from the economical and sociological points of view is the financial burden on the town by reason of the "Hill Folk." Carefully analyzed statistics indicate that during the last decades the financial aid given to this community by the town has increased 400 per cent, and, as the authors point out, "the large percentage of the crimes which were against sex indicate that the influence which such persons exert in a community is of far more importance than the 10,700 odd dollars spent in punishing the criminals after the influence has been established" (p. 17).

A comparison of the "Hill Folk" with the Jukes family yields numerous interesting conclusions. The numbers of individuals included in the reports are similar for both communities, but whereas the Jukes family presents with astounding frequency criminal tendencies among the men and prostitution among the women, the "Hill Folk" present a picture of shiftlessness and low-grade mentality associated with sex immorality and a tendency to minor criminal offenses.

The authors' study of the school children of the community is of prime significance, since it gives us a glimpse into the future of the "Hill Folk." Of 75 individuals in the school children group, the school records of 7 were not obtained. Of the remainder 38 were below grade and 30 were up to grade. In a table, the characteristics of the parents and a brief characterization of each of the 68 individuals are presented. It is evident that "before adolescence half of the children from the Hill families show evidences of their mental handicap. The detrimental influence which such children may exert upon the schools which they attend is an important matter for consideration" (p. 19).

Even more interesting in several respects than the results of the study of the school children among the "Hill Folk" is the discussion of heredity and environment which the authors present. For naturally the community furnishes an experiment on the influence of environment, since many of the children are early taken from their homes and placed

in better environments. "A comparative study of the varying results of good and poor environment upon individuals from the same germ-plasm increases the evidence of the power of individual potentialities" (p. 25). This conclusion is based upon a careful study of the development of thirty state wards concerning whom the authors venture the following statements:

Of the thirty state wards who have been away from home long enough to be affected, fourteen, approximately half, are at present, or probably will be, good, average citizens. Of these, seven carry an almost intangible burden of unfortunate heredity which may always be a retarding factor [p. 26].

These cases, then, prove that persons belonging to these strains who have been brought up under good influences may turn out well or ill, and that even when placed *early* under good conditions the result may be highly unsatisfactory. On the other hand, of members of the same fraternity who remained at home under the same poor environment, some turned out relatively well. It is not to be denied that the latter would have done better if their culture had been superior, nor that the "easily influenced" workman would have taken a wrong path if surrounded only by bad influences instead of good. But, on the other hand, it is clear that the capacity of these people for good or evil is born with them and bred in the bone and environment acts as a more or less effective screen or lure, as the case may be [p. 31].

We quote, in conclusion, the entire summary of the memoir, since every point made is of great social importance:

1. The analysis of the method of inheritance of feeble-mindedness shows that it cannot be considered a unit character. It is evidently a complex of quantitatively and qualitatively varying factors most of which are negative, and are inherited as though due to the absence of unit characters.

2. The value of out-marriage, or exogamy, as a means of attenuating defective strains is diminished by the action of social barriers and the natural preference of individuals, which induce marriages among like grades of mentality, in a foreign as well as a native locality.

3. The amount of town aid, which this one group of defective families requires decennially, has increased 400 per cent in the last thirty years. In the same length of time its criminal bill has been \$10,763.43 for sixteen persons; and the bill for its thirty children who were supported by the state during the last twenty-three years is \$45,888.57. During the past sixty years this community has, it is estimated, cost the state and the people half a million dollars.

4. Half of the present number of school children from these families who are living at home show evidence of mental deficiency.

5. One-half of the state wards from the community in question have reacted favorably in an improved environment and give promise of becoming

more or less useful citizens; the other half consists of institutional cases and those which have not reacted to the better environment, but are likely to become troublesome and dangerous citizens.

6. The comparative cost of segregating one feeble-minded couple and that of maintaining their offspring shows, in the instance at hand, that the latter policy has been three times more expensive [pp. 33, 34].

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A Sunny Life. The Biography of Samuel June Barrows. By ISABEL C. BARROWS. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1913.

The poetic title should not divert attention from the substantial contributions to the history of social reforms in this country. Dr. Barrows was an embodiment of those motives which our best men honor; and his careful preparation for his duties is an example to the student. The record of his achievements is remarkable and inspiring; he was a pioneer in a field where much hard work remains to be done. Honor to his memory.

C. R. HENDERSON

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List of Industrial Poisons. Bulletin of the Bureau of Labor, No. 100, May, 1912.

Owing to ignorance of the subject in this country and the neglect which goes with interested blindness, it has long been imagined and often asserted that American workmen are somehow magically immune to the harmful effects of those chemical substances which enfeeble or kill European workmen. Among the many useful publications of the Bureau of Labor not one touches life more closely than this "list of industrial poisons" prepared by Drs. Sommerfeld and Fischer for the International Labor Office. The work has been done by experts and passed through the most critical ordeal of examination by a large number of competent specialists.

The inquiries of the Illinois State Commission on Occupational Diseases (1911) not only led to important protective legislation in Illinois and other states, but served to stimulate other investigations. Congress after long discussion removed a disgrace from our flag by taxing out of existence the manufacture of white phosphorous matches which among operatives and consumers has been so injurious and fatal.